

Governor's Advisory Board Meeting on Service
May 28, 2015
CARITAS Richmond, 1125 E. Commerce Road, Richmond VA 23224

Attendees: Lettie Bien, Elizabeth Childress, Marshall Dendy, Vanessa Diamond, Mark Fero, Terry Frye, Peter Goldin, Ashley Hall, Debbie Martinez (CNCS), Amy Nisenson, Karen Schultz, Seema Sethi, Karen Stanley, Laurie Turner, and Leslie Van Horn.

Staff: Kim Brown, Tanisha Dorsey, Demian Futterman, Abby Hanks, Amanda Healy, Eva Hite, Deneen Jackson, and Cathy Walker.

Advisory Board Meeting Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:25 a.m. by Board Chair Karen Stanley.

The meeting was held at CARITAS, an AmeriCorps funded program that serves the homeless and supports men who are in recovery and are working to gain life and job skills in the Richmond area. The Board Members and Office of Volunteerism and Community Service Staff spent an hour prior to the meeting working on a service project. They helped to build tables to be donated through CARITAS and its furniture warehouse.

Karen Stanley welcomed the Board and first noted that Board Members Ellie Matthews and Marshall Dendy will be graduating from high school and that cards were there for the Board to sign.

Adoption of the Agenda

A motion was made to adopt the agenda. The motion was properly seconded and passed.

Adoption of the April 30, 2015 minutes

A motion was made to adopt the April 30, 2015 minutes. The motion was properly seconded and passed.

Chair Report

Karen asked the Board about the service project and the Board members replied that the project went well. Karen talked about her role at CARITAS, and the population served by CARITAS. CARITAS has 2 programs, one is the Works Program which helps men with significant work barriers to learn job placement skills. The Furniture Warehouse Program works closely with The Healing Place nearby and serves about 1,000 households per year. She talked about the role AmeriCorps plays in the success of these programs. CARITAS has 12.5 AmeriCorps Service Members, and they fill some of the AmeriCorps Service Members with men they serve, to test their job skills through the furniture warehouse and to help them move on to full time opportunities.

Karen reported that the Program Committee will be presenting an important report on the AmeriCorps funding recommendations for the 2015-2016 program year. After the sub-committee meetings and reports, guest speaker Katie Campbell will give a special presentation "Reimagining Service".

Karen noted that this was the last Board meeting of this term year, and that the members may or may not see each other again at the next Board meeting. Amanda Healy advised that there was an application process to be re-appointed, and OVCS staff will follow up on the applications and deadline.

Karen then advised the Board that this meeting will follow the agenda differently. The Program committee and the Board will go into executive session to discuss the Program Committee's presentation on AmeriCorps' formula funding recommendations. The executive session will be in place to present and discuss funding allocations that have not been released to the public or programs, and have not been approved or concurred by the Board. During executive session the board and staff can only discuss the funding information.

Karen then called for the recess to break into sub-committee groups and reconvene at 12:15 p.m.

Committee Reports:

Program Committee Report:

Karen Stanley moved that the Board convene into executive closed session to discuss the results of the competitive procurement process for investing public funds in AmeriCorps programming opportunities pursuant to the investment of public funds exemption at Section 2.2-3711(A)(6) of the Code of Virginia, and the possible award of public contracts involving the expenditure of public funds and discussion of the terms or scope of such contracts, pursuant to the award of contracts using public funds exemption at Section 2.2-3711(A)(29). The motion was properly seconded and passed.

At the conclusion of the closed executive session, the Board was asked if anyone believed there was a departure from the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act, and that he or she must say so and identify the substance of departure. No one on the Board identified a departure.

Karen Stanley then stated that a roll call affirmation would be asked of each Board Member to so certify that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements AND only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the public body. Eva Hite then called each Member of the Board present by name and each member did reply, "I so certify".

The meeting then re-convened to open session.

Communication Committee Report:

Laurie Turner, Chair, reported that the committee discussed the technology challenges with support letters for the Governor's Volunteerism Awards. At this time the letters cannot be submitted on-line. Laurie reported that the Office on Volunteerism and Community Service (OVCS) Staff will be working on improving the process and the Committee talked about having a longer open period for nominations.

The Committee discussed the 2015 Virginia Volunteerism and Service Conference. Laurie reported humorist Ron Culberson will be a guest speaker at the conference. The Mayor of Roanoke David Bowers will also be a speaker at the conference. The Committee discussed getting someone who has an emotional experience with service to speak as well. Laurie reported that Abby Hanks has organized a sub-committee of people from the Roanoke area to plan workshops. Laurie also reported that OVCS Staff is still looking for exhibitors. Laurie reported that a website has been created for the 2015 Conference and it will be up and open for registration on June 15, 2015.

Laurie gave an update on the Faith Based Advisory Council. The Council will have its meeting on June 5, 2015. The focus of this meeting will be on ways faith-based organizations can work with Social Services.

Service and Outreach Committee Report:

Karen Schultz, Chair, reported that the Service and Outreach Committee had chosen to review the State Plan and pick the top 3 priorities for each Committee Member. Some of the Committee Members have turned those in but they are still waiting on a couple more. With those priorities, she reported that the Committee also wants an action statement to go with each priority stating how each priority will get done. Karen said the Committee would like to have the Action Statements by 5 p.m. on June 16, 2015.

Karen reported the Committee learned that there will be a Governor's Conference on Aging in May 2016 and that this conference is just now in the planning stages. The Committee sees this conference as a potentially great opportunity to meet some of the service plan priorities.

The committee discussed a point made that the hope is the Board will continue engaging others outside of this Committee. The Board was just codified so some members will continue on while some will have shorter terms. This may alter the Committee's plans but the Committee hopes that those rotated off will continue service and support the mission of the Board. She hoped that the Members of the Board will support Karen Stanley and her chairmanship and the plans beyond this term.

Karen commended the Service and Outreach Committee for taking responsibility for his or her specific steps of how the committee members will support the staff, our Governor, and our public.

Karen said she also learned that our State Service Plan will be updated in 2016. She believes this will involve the entire Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Katie Campbell, a nationally known speaker and author, gave a presentation entitled "Reimagining Service". The Service Enterprise Initiative is a national coalition of multi-sector leaders formed in 2009 to increase the impact of volunteers. She shared its history and the 4 guiding principles of the coalition. The Service Enterprise Initiative is an organization that "fundamentally leverages volunteers as a core strategic function to achieve the social mission of the organization".

The Service Enterprise Initiative research has found that when organizations manage volunteers well, the organizations are more adaptable, sustainable and capable of going to scale. Volunteers make organizations significantly stronger. Katie also discussed the benefits of organizations becoming Service Enterprises and the impact the initiative can have on all staff. Organizations gain a new awareness on how volunteer engagement connects to every other aspect of the organization.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made. The motion was properly seconded and passed. The meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM.

esh